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**Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe, February 20,
1824, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

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Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe

Monto. Feb. 20. 24.

Dear Sir

The multiplied solicitns. To interest myself with you for applicants for office have been uniformly refused by me. In a few cases only where facts have been within my knolege I have not been able to refuse stating them as a witness, which I have made it a point to do so only as that you might understand that I took no particular interest in the case. In a conversn. With you however at OakHill some two or three years ago I mentioned to you that there would be one single case, and but one in the whole world into which I should go with m whole heart and soul, and ask as if it were for myself. It was that whenever the Post office or Collector's office at Richmd. either of them should become vacant, you would name Colo. B. Peyton to it, and preferably to the P.O. if both were to be vacant. Both incumbents have for years been thought near their exit and Foushee should be now at death's door, yet I would not ask this were there a man in the world more capable, or more diligent or more honest than Peyton, one of higher worth or more general favor or to whom I would give it myself in preference to hi,. He is all this, and I will be responsible that his nomination will not only be a general gratification, but I believe a more general than any other not only to the vicinage, but to the legislature & to the state for he is very

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generally known having been a captain in the late war and since that a Commn merch. of uncommon esteem. To me it will be supreme satisfactn for I look on him with almost the eyes of a father. I know you will be most strongly solicited for others, and those too of unexceptionable merit and great interest. I will say boldly however for no one who will execute the office more faithfully & diligently or with more comity than Peyton. Grant me this and as I never have, so I never will again put your friend ship to the trial as for myself. I inform Peyton that I have written to you, and desire him at the moment of the occurrence to address a letter to yourself directly that no time may be lost by it's passing thro' me, for note a moment will be lost by others, and the earlier the notice to you, the sooner you may be able to preclude other importunities. I salute you with constant affection & respect. Th. J.

FC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).